



Rijkswaterstaat
Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management

Scoping in a complex world:
an appeal for a broad focus?
*Lessons learned from the
Netherlands*

IAIA 2022

GOOD PRACTICES OF TIERING
SEA AND EIA: HOW TO MAKE IT
HAPPEN?

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INTRODUCTION

Who am I and what is this paper about?

Gisa Vos

Rijkswaterstaat

The executive organisation of the
Ministry of Infrastructure and Water
management in the Netherlands



*SEA on different
governmental levels in
the NL*



RESEARCH

What does earlier research conclude?

Explorative research to on the possible benefits, disadvantages and obstacles of a broad IA (e.g. ESHIA) for plans and projects that traditionally have a narrow focus.

A broad (beyond legal requirements) assessment framework...

- results in a complete picture of the possible impacts. However, it is not the silver bullet for better decision-making
- could lead to a lower level of detail and more complexity
- tends to become more and more broad.
- and a higher level of detail, requires more specific knowledge. Specialists are not always available or the budget is not sufficient. It is often hard to get all the required information on specific aspects and criteria.



RWS INFORMATIE

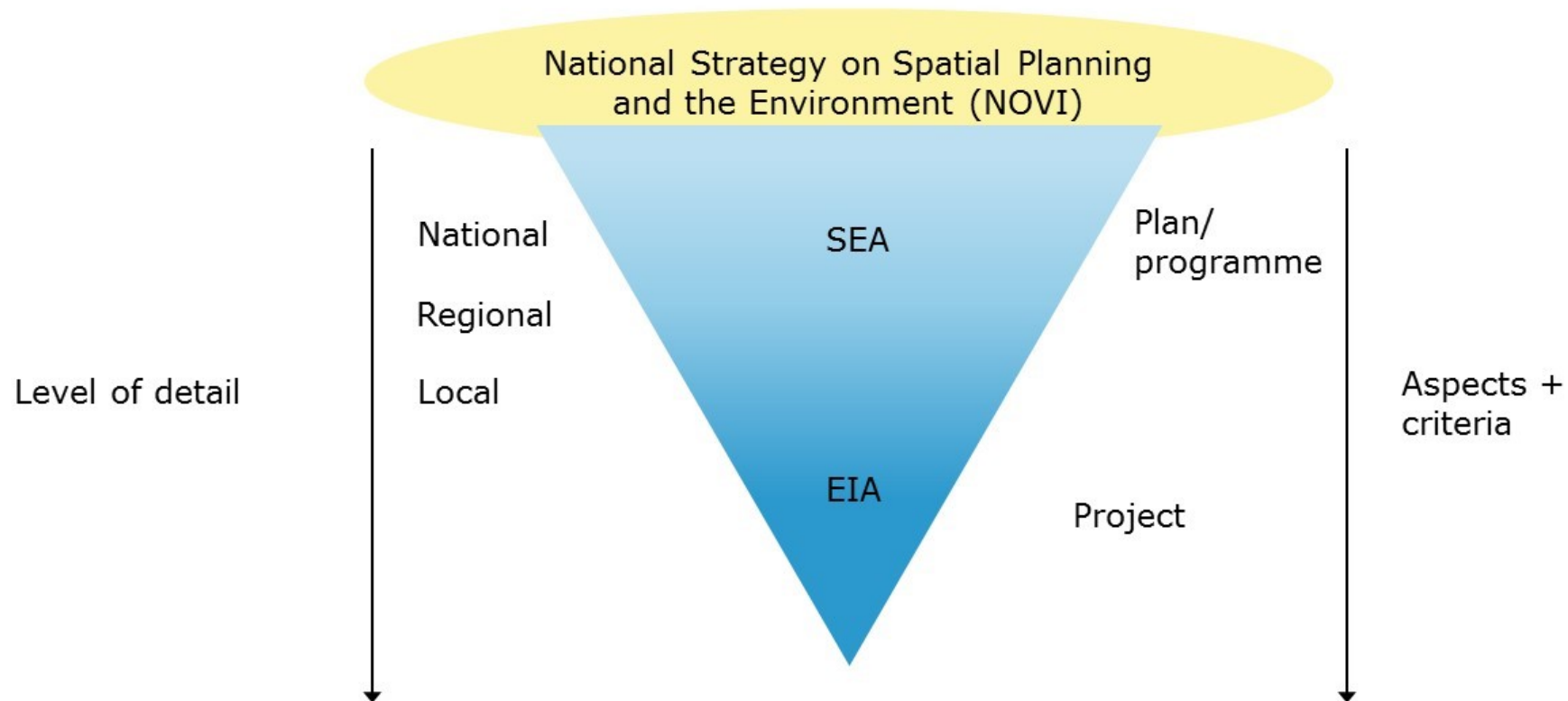
Verkennd onderzoek brede milieueffectrapportage
MIRT-projecten

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RESEARCH

Does tiering on different governmental/geographic levels work? Does it trickle down as expected, especially considering scoping?





CASE STUDY

strategy planning (SEA) on different governmental levels in the NL

WHAT DID WE DO?

- 3 governmental levels
 - National
 - Regional
 - Local
- 5 research questions
- Interactive interview with 3 specialists working on all 3 governmental levels
- Approximately 15 cases

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. How has the assessment framework been derived?
2. How has the level of detail in the assessment framework been specified?
3. People-Planet-Profit: On which P is the focus per governmental level? How can you deduct this from the assessment framework? And what is the difference per governmental level?
4. Which impediments and limitations are there per governmental level?
5. How do the governmental levels affect each other? Do findings from the one level affect the other level? How does this affect the assessment framework?



FINDINGS

*SEA on different
governmental levels in the
NL*





SYNTHESIS, CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

SEA on different governmental levels in the NL

Conclusion and discussion

- There is, in practice, a broadening of themes. But how about the ambitions of the new act and strategy?
- Tiering in SEA on different layers of government in SEA does (in the case study) not work out as expected.
- Scoping is difficult on all levels of government, due to:
 - the broad character of the plan,
 - the lack of available information, specific ambitions and goals, best practices and a across-boarder view
- SEA as silos

Recommendation

- Revise the form free character on the broad SEA
- Set a best practice example



Rijkswaterstaat
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and Water Management*

Thank you!

Questions?



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